

THE LIBERATOR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | **AUGUST 23, 2011** | PREMIER ISSUE

BEYOND THE 40 ACRES

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
TAKES NEW DIRECTION

HARRY POTTER THE END OF AN ERA

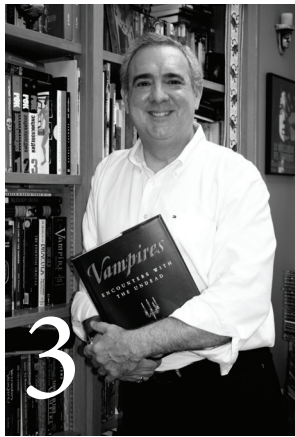
DEGREES THAT BITE BACK

VOTER APATHY



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08, 15 Photos by Cheyenne Smith



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Junior Jeremy Gatson photographed by
Marisa Montemayor

Letter from the Editors

First off, we'd like to say thank you for reading The Liberal Arts Council's first ever news publication, *THE LIBERATOR*. We know that with an unpredictable economy, producing a publication isn't the first priority on the University's agenda. As editors and members of LAC, it is our responsibility to create a magazine that benefits students, faculty and staff of the College of Liberal Arts by keeping you updated on timely news, campus legislation and student life.

What you hold in your hands is four months of sweat, tears and painstaking ad sales. As a start-up publication with a staff comprised entirely of Liberal Arts students, the odds were stacked against us. How would we raise the thousands of dollars required to produce a quality magazine? If we got the money, would our nine-member staff take to a crash course in journalism? The answer, as with all great risks, is with help. Lots of help. Our goal was to unite the students of The College of Liberal Arts in a way they hadn't been before – through the written word. With over 50 majors and close to 10,000

students, we had our work cut out for us. In making this magazine we thought of you – the anthropologists, the historians, the writers and economists. We thought about you, the readers. At the end of our first publication cycle, we realized we had something special on our hands – a key to success that only the College of Liberal Arts has to offer – and that's variety. Within CoLA we have the most opinionated, open-minded, versatile and driven students in the entire university. We house the critical thinkers and communicators, the students most willing to step outside their field to grasp a greater understanding of the world around us. As you read this first issue of *THE LIBERATOR*, we hope you feel closer to the College of Liberal Arts. We hope you are able to take something away from the text and apply it to your life. But above all else, we hope you enjoy yourself.

Look out for *THE LIBERATOR* around campus. We will produce a total of eight issues this year, the next of which will print on September 26th, 2011. Please feel free to write to us with any comments, questions, or concerns or visit the Liberal Arts Council website at www.utlac.com. Thanks and Hook 'Em!

■ MARISA MONTEMAYOR & CHEYENNE SMITH

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Love it? Hate it? Let us know! Letters to the editor reviewing articles from this issue will be printed in the next edition of *THE LIBERATOR*.

THE LIBERATOR is the official publication of The Liberal Arts Council. As a liberal arts-focused news magazine, we aim to keep students connected to the university through updates on legislation, campus affairs and student life. All questions, comments and concerns can be directed to THE LIBERATOR at:

utlacpromotions@gmail.com

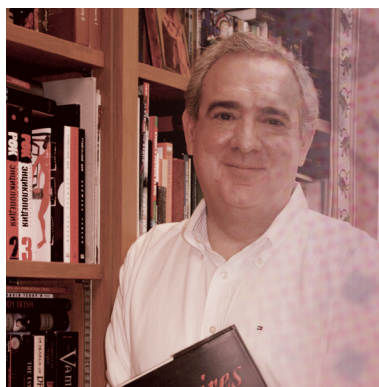


THE LIBERATOR

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PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT THOMAS GARZA

DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS LANGUAGE CENTER | SLAVIC AND EURASIAN STUDIES

For over 30 years, Dr. Thomas Garza, director of the Center for Eastern European and Eurasian Studies, has dedicated his life to understanding Russia; a land once described by Winston Churchill as “a riddle wrapped in an enigma inside a mystery.” After making his first trip as an undergraduate student in 1979, he has travelled to Russia at least once every year since. During this time, Dr. Garza studied topics such as vampires, the Russian mafia, the Chechen wars and Russian youth. He conducted crucial research on Russian youth leading up to the invasion of Chechnya in 1994, his research on vampires has been featured on the History Channel’s “Vampire Secrets” and HBO’s documentary to celebrate the premier of “True Blood,” and he was even called as an expert witness in a court case relating to the Russian mafia.

As a lecturer, Dr. Garza teaches classes at all levels in the university, working tirelessly to help people understand such a complicated culture. Some of the courses targeted toward freshman are intensive first year Russian, an Undergraduate Studies class on Russian

science fiction, and most famously, The Vampire in Slavic Culture.

As one of the most popular classes in the Slavic department, more than 100 students register for The Vampire in Slavic Culture each year. According to Garza, people look at his class with either a large degree of skepticism or enthusiasm, but his goal is to bridge serious academic subjects with what’s going on in popular culture.

“They get into it obviously for the vampire hook, but this is a substantial course,” Garza said. “There’s a lot of work on Russian literature, religion, culture, geography, and film.”

With such a wide variety of expertise and having published works based on topics ranging from Russian language to the proliferation of Asian food in post-Soviet Russia, there seems to be no link connecting Garza’s interests. But according to Garza, the common thread among his research relates to “othering” in Russian culture.

“I’m looking at what is it like to be a majority Russian young person,” Garza said. “White, blonde-haired,

blue-eyed, looking at a world and a post-Soviet Russia that is becoming very multi-cultural. So who becomes the vampires? Who become the Mafiosi (the Russian Mafia)? Who become the police guys? Who become the bad guys? Who are the guys we fight in Chechnya? These are the others.”

Though this trend of “othering” remains a problem in modern Russian society, Dr. Garza states that the complete picture is much more complicated. In fact, he says the best literature and film coming out of Russia today goes against this trend and shows the Russian public the stupidity of seeing people as enemies just because they are different.

Dr. Garza’s work as a lecturer at UT puts an interesting spin on Russian culture by merging academic subjects such as literature and film with entertainment like science fiction and vampires. His classes, as well as his work as the director for the Center for Eastern European and Eurasian Studies, helps students understand the nuances of an increasingly important and misunderstood country.

■ USMAN MASOOD

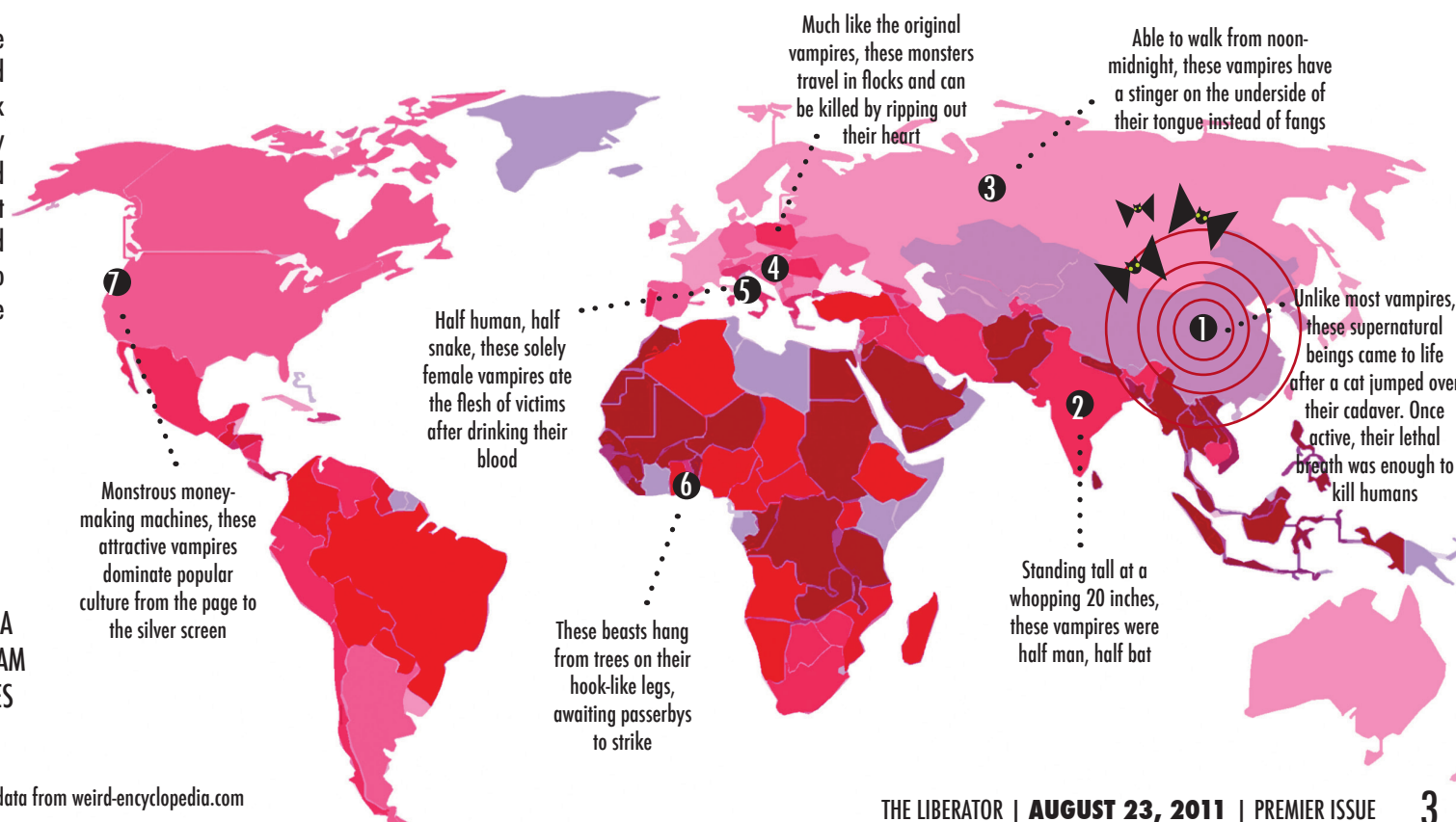
BAT COUNTRY

THE LEGEND OF VAMPIRES HAS DEVIATED FROM ITS ORIGINS IN EASTERN ASIA AND DEVELOPED DIFFERENT CULTURAL IDENTITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD

“The first accounts of vampires come from East Asia, notably, China and Japan, where the tradition dates back over three thousand years. Slightly later, the tales of the death and blood goddess, Kali, emerge in South Asia. It is these tales that travel the Silk Road to the Near East and, ultimately, to Greece and the Balkans and become our modern day vampire stories.”

— PROFESSOR GARZA

- ❶ CHINA | CH’IANG SHIH
- ❷ INDIA | BAITAL
- ❸ RUSSIA | UPIERCZI
- ❹ ROMANIA | STRIGOI
- ❺ ROME & GREECE | LAMIA
- ❻ W. AFRICA | ASASABONSAM
- ❼ HOLLYWOOD | GLAMPIRES



Garza photo by Marisa Montemayor;
Maps from creativecommons.com, Bat Country data from weird-encyclopedia.com

Good Isn't Good Enough

ASSOCIATE DEAN MARC MUSICK TAKES ON COLLEGE RETENTION RATES



The University of Texas graduates 80% of first time college students, earning it 12th place in the nation. However, for Longhorns and Associate Dean Marc Musick, good isn't good enough. Hoping to raise graduation rates to 90%, UT houses programs designed to help those considered at risk of dropping out.

"Right now we have a retention program called UTurn," Musick said. "It's very successful, but not very well known at this point. If you're on scholastic probation and in a certain major, you're invited into the UTurn program. You get specialized advising, extra access to learning skills center, we pay for your tutoring and you get workshops on time management. We really give folks in the UTurn program more resources than they would normally get. The goal is to get them off probation and in good standing."

A PROGRAM WITH HEART

UTurn began in the spring of 2009 and has been growing steadily ever since. The program is designed to create a support network for students and to provide them with resources necessary to succeed.

"We think that right now UTurn is successful," Musick said. "Students who come into UTurn are less likely to get dismissed and more likely to get off probation, but we think we can be more successful. We just submitted a grant for about a million dollars to expand UTurn, and if that gets funded what we plan to do is create a peer mentor system for the UTurn students. We'll use students who have gone through the UTurn program as mentors [and] we'll pay them a small salary like they're working a job."

REACHING OUT

While the dean hopes the future of UTurn will include more student involvement, he also believes current students can help without the aid of staff created programs.

"I think that there needs to be some student leadership on this and that there needs to be a movement among the students to say, we're going to take care of our own because all of us are part of a family," Musick said. "I'm doing my job and part of your job is to get good grades and graduate, but part of your job also is to create a community for you fellow students in which they want to succeed and can succeed. There are students who will do that. The question is how do you organize this effort."

SIMILAR STRUGGLES

Through personal experience, the dean understands pressure and knows how hard it can be any student: his college career was not that of a straight A student, to say the least. However, he was determined. Undergraduate research turned the dean's life around, and he believes it can do the same for anyone.

"I was not a very good student, but before I graduated I realized I wanted to go to grad school and become a professor," Musick said. "That's very hard to do when your grades aren't good. So my last year here I found a professor and started doing undergraduate research with him. That work led to articles that went in for publication, that work led to a glowing letter of recommendation from him, and between those two things and my GRE score, I got into Duke. Undergraduate research changed my life."

So even though there are ways and programs in place to help students stay in school, there are still those who don't. The Dean has an answer, or at least is working on one, for them too.



"Right now if someone drops out, they just drop out, they never hear from us again; I want that to change"

- Associate Dean Marc Musick

Illustration by Cheyenne Smith
Musick Photo from traitwise.com

"Right now if someone drops out they just drop out, they never hear from us again; I want that to change," Musick said. "I started this new program called Reach Out. Any student who drops out, and we can identify as a drop out, we contact them. I want it to basically say, 'Are you okay? Are you coming back? What can we do to help?'"

EASIER SAID THAN DONE

Despite the dean's best efforts, reeling, even contacting, dropouts was much harder than anyone had predicted.

"What we discovered was that people are very hard to contact," Musick said. "They weren't answering their phones, they weren't returning messages, so I realized this would be really hard to pull off and Reach Out hasn't gone very far. I think the idea would eventually be that students would be the ones reaching out. They would just provide that personal touch to make them feel like they are wanted and they should come back. So we are thinking about things that will be very difficult to implement, but if we can make them work, it'd be a good thing."

STARTING AT THE SOURCE

With all the money in the world, UT could certainly raise graduation rates and have as many programs as it wanted. However, in a time of budget cuts and limited resources, the future of some programs may not be so bright. Dean Musick is very aware of this fact and thinks something could be done at an even deeper level.

"I think part of the problem really is our farm system, that our public schools aren't serving our students very well," Musick said. "We need to do a better job across the state of improving public education so when they come to college they come ready for college. Right now we're working on that, in fact I submitted a grant this summer to do just that."

While budget cuts all around dampen spirits and limit program possibilities, the fight isn't over. As long as students are willing to help themselves as well as their fellow students, the dean and all UT staff will continue to aid students that need it, and will continue working on making an education and UT the best it can be.

■ RACHEL MARINO



Pocketing the Right Degree

IN TODAY'S COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE, WILL YOUR MAJOR BE A DEAD SHOT OR INSURANCE BALL?

Every year, the College of Liberal Arts accepts thousands of incoming freshman and transfer students. Many of these students lack direction, and only know that they want to attend the University of Texas at Austin. The majority register as undeclared majors, while others choose Liberal Arts as an easy way to get into the university and transfer into "safer" schools such as Business or Engineering. People often think that Liberal Arts degrees cannot lead to steady employment after college and see a more vocationally oriented education as a more practical option. With the slowest period of economic growth since the end of the recession; incoming students must ask themselves where their education will take them, but they should not immediately dismiss majoring in the College of Liberal Arts.

Nobody should discount the importance of fields such as engineering, business and medicine - but they are not for everybody. Students that show no interest in their studies waste the time of their professors, the time of students genuinely interested in their work and most importantly, their own time. When people pay tens of thousands of dollars to attend school for four years, they

must choose a field they are absolutely passionate about and willing to put in the extra work to get the most out of their own education. Liberal Arts offers a wide variety of majors and every undecided major should at least attempt to do some research on a subject they find both interesting and fulfilling.

One of the most common misconceptions about a liberal arts education is that it does not provide any real-world skills. With rapidly emerging markets in Russia, China, Brazil and India, experts in these respective cultures and languages will be in higher demand by both the state department and the private sector. Also, a liberal arts education teaches students to think critically about what they learn - it may seem like a hard skill to market, but assessing situations is a valuable tool in the workplace where tradition and corporate culture gets in way of efficiency.

Vocationally-oriented degrees are not safety nets. Though they provide a more specific skill set, this factor alone can act as a double-edged sword later down the line. Most people switch careers at some point in their life and a limited education can backfire once the market doesn't demand that type of degree any

longer. A liberal arts education provides flexibility in an unpredictable world. The knowledge that one gains in any variety of disciplines, whether it be sociology, economics, regional studies or political science, often comes up in different work environments.

At the end of the day, one can only learn so much inside a classroom. It may seem like a cliché, but the most important thing for an undergraduate student can do is engage in their own education. According to the U.S. Department of Education, over 1.5 million students receive a bachelor's degree each year. No longer will a simple piece of paper with a name printed on it guarantee a stable job. To gain an advantage in a competitive labor market, students must seek out experience through internships, leadership positions in organizations and establishing connections. These experiences mean much more than any hand-fed information given in a classroom, and the College of Liberal Arts offers such opportunities to students willing to look around and put in the extra work. Liberal Arts may not be for everyone, but students unsure of their path would be wrong to immediately dismiss it.

■ USMAN MASOOD

THE SLACKER ROOMMATE RAGE

WHO IS THE SLACKER AND HOW DID HE WIND UP WITH THE ROOMMATE FROM HELL?

First off, I was told to live in a dorm my first semester of college with a complete stranger because that's how you "meet people". After introductions with my roommate, I noticed some obvious differences between us. He had lived in multiple continents, I had lived in two states. He had 1000+ plus Facebook friends, I had that number nearly divisible by 10. He backpacked around Europe all summer meeting people from different cultures, and I worked at my local HEB meeting people with different eating habits. We didn't have too much in common, which wasn't unexpected, but our biggest difference just so happened to be our morals.

The night before my first day of college classes, I decided to go to bed early. Shortly after dozing off, I awoke shocked to hear enthusiastic rustling coming from my bathroom. I, like so many others, had heard the stories that made co-ed dormitories a euphemism for brothels. Once I comprehended what was going on, my blood began to boil. In hopes that my roommate and his lady friend would take their business elsewhere, I hit the

bathroom wall next to my bed. The result proved similar to how you might yell and clap your hands to stop dogs from mating on your front lawn - unsuccessful.

The next day, I debated whether to let it go or confront my roommate. In my rage, I chose the latter and things got ugly. From then on, my respect for him sunk to rock bottom and anything he or his girlfriend did that irritated me, regardless of how miniscule, infuriated me. My dorm room never became a home that semester, and the worst part of the day was always returning to it. Eventually I moved to another dorm room that turned out to be a much better situation.

I don't intend to be one of those stereotypical optimists who magically turn a negative into a positive. In all honesty, the incident soured the roots of my college experience. Within 72 hours my dorm room transformed into a jail cell and I had to navigate campus to find spots I felt comfortable with. The Union turned out to be my home that semester, and since I practically lived there, I found my way into extracurriculars and met great people who

I probably wouldn't have if I was content to dwell in my room.

In retrospect, I'm glad I remained aggressive rather than passive, but I wish I hadn't let every issue get to me from beginning to end. I also recommend telling other people immediately before you implode. Student organizations are a great way to find those people that most enjoy listening to horrific rooming problems. Some have even worse stories to tell. A terrible living situation is a common bond that many share, and to get out of it, all you need to do is speak to your RA or landlord.

All in all, I can't really generalize and say living in a dorm with a stranger or friend sucks, and you should live somewhere else- some dorm experiences are successes, and others are complete flops. Whether good or bad, all living situations are learning experiences, and there's absolutely no telling what's going to happen. Essentially, the greatest difference is that at least a bad one usually provides a good story to tell.

■ THE SLACKER



Alarmclock	Toilet	Smokey	Obnoxious
Clothes	Psycho	Alcoholic	Annoying
Dirty	Food	Loud	Party
Dishes	Messy	Bathroom	Smelly

Voter Apathy

IN A COUNTRY WHERE VOTER TURNOUT PLATEAUS AT 62 PERCENT, WILL YOU MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD?

There are many things that we as college students and citizens take for granted, but voting shouldn't be one of them. In 2009, the Austin Business Journal reported Texas as having one of the worst voter turnout rates in the United States, a country that already underperforms when compared to other democracies. While 75% of Minnesota's voting population turned out for the 2008 presidential election, the highest rate in the nation, only 56% of Texans did. These numbers reflect the apathy present in Texas voters on all levels: federal, state, and local. Voter apathy is a problem and it can be turned around by the strong efforts of small communities. With more than 50,000 students enrolled, The University of Texas is one of the largest universities in the country and the perfect place to get started.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

First off, throw out the "my vote doesn't count" argument. Yes, it's easy to think that out of the thousands of people that head to the polls on election day, one vote won't change much in the end. However, this isn't true. Several elections were decided by fewer than 20 votes. In the 2010 general election, state Representative Donna Howard was able to keep her seat in the Texas House with a 16-vote victory over her opponent. In the 2010 Minnesota House elections, King Banaian defeated his opponent with a 13 vote victory. In the Alaska House race of 2008, incumbent Mike Kelly won his seat by just one vote. If your economics discussion section or English class turned out to vote in any of the aforementioned elections, they will have decided the race. With more than 10,000 students in the College of Liberal Arts alone, imagine the change that could be made.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

As students, we don't want to make uneducated votes on topics we don't fully understand. The purpose of voting is to voice your opinion and hopefully elect a representative who shares your views. If you don't know what those views are, your vote doesn't serve its purpose. In today's tech-savvy society, it's never been easier to

keep in the know. Numerous sites exist that specialize in centralizing all the information you need to make decisions regarding candidates and policies in one, easy-to-find place. Sites such as ballotbook.com and votesmart.org allow site visitors to find everything from candidate biographies to localized voter registration information. It is our responsibility as citizens to educate ourselves, so why don't we take the time to do so?

PERSONAL MATTERS

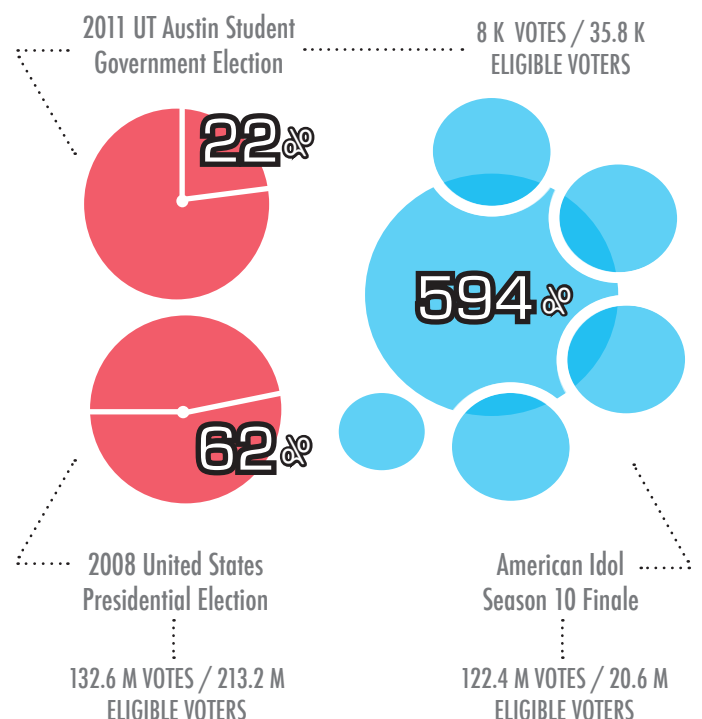
Voting shouldn't be a burden, voting should be a priority. Young people, specifically those under 25, remain the least represented in election cycles. As students, we have unique interests that our parents and the elderly can't account for and don't understand. Additionally, what gets decided in the Texas legislature in regards to budgetary and educational policy often has direct impacts on student life at our university. If we care about our university, we should care enough to vote for the policies and officials that we think will work best to meet our needs.

IT'S UP TO YOU

The fact remains, voting is important. Voting allows citizens to voice their opinions and have a say in how they're governed. Educating yourself is simpler than ever before and here at UT, voting is made even easier. Not only do we have the ability to vote on campus, but there is also so much being done by the university in an effort to improve representation. Organizations such as Hook the Vote, UT Votes and the Annette Strauss Institute are all tirelessly committed to engaging, educating and mobilizing the Longhorn vote. It's time we do what students do best: harness our resources, exploit them and then share what we know with our peers. The best ways for us to do that is to go out and vote. In doing so, we help not only ourselves, but also our state and our University of Texas community.

■ DANA HENNING

AMERICAN VALUES THE SAD TRUTH ABOUT VOTER TURNOUT



GET INVOLVED IN
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

WWW.UTEXAS.EDU/STUDENTGOV

Capitol photo illustration by Cheyenne Smith
Graph data from The Daily Texan and Elections.gmu.edu

FROM FRESHMAN YEAR TO NOW

my life has felt like a complete whirlwind. People say your college years are the best four years of your life... and they really aren't kidding. But time creeps up on you faster than you might think. In just a flash you're a small fish in the sea, transformed into big man on campus...ahh senior status. Although, I've come this far I don't think I have gone through college doing everything according to plan. There are ups and downs in everyone's path, but it's being able to adapt and adjust that will make your four years successful. I can say one thing about being a freshman: anything and everything will happen to you. . Sitting in on the wrong class by mistake, falling down a flight of stairs while sprinting to class, and catching the wrong bus- it's all happened to me. For your enjoyment and maybe even for your best interest I have compiled a list of 10 things I wish I would have known as an incoming freshman.

■ MARISA MONTEMAYOR



10

Don't hit the snooze button more than twice. Chances, are those last 10 minutes you're snoozing ,the UT bus will cruise right by your dorm room. You'll need those extra ten minutes to run through the south mall in order to make it to class on time.

Mark your bus route before school starts. You don't want to be that kid on the bus circling through Dean Keeton and 21st Street not knowing which stop to get off at. Talk about embarrassing.

9

8

Join a club or an organization- find something that interests you on campus and get involved. It's the best way to meet people with similar interests and a great way to make new friends.

Utilize campus resources. There are a number of people and places around campus who are willing to make your 4 years at the University of Texas successful. All you have to do is ask for help. Use the Undergraduate Writing Center for all of your papers and consult campus librarians when attempting to do research. They're all there for a reason.

7

6

Go to any and all sporting events. One of the perks of being at a Division 1 University is the athletics. There is nothing more exciting than 95,000 screaming football fans in burnt orange.

Visit the Mental Health Services building if you're having a medical issue or if you're down on your luck and looking for someone to talk to.

5

4

Utilize your teaching assistants. They're there to help you when class sizes are too big. Remember they were just in your shoes - they know what it's like to be an undergraduate student.

Don't skip class. It's easy to get in the habit, but 99 percent of the material that the professor puts on the exams is said in his/her lecture hall. Be smart about being on time and ready to take notes.

3

2

Take advantage of your professor's office hours. With class sizes as big as 300, it's easy to feel lost about what is going on in class. Going to your professor's office hours is a great way to put your face out there and to talk to the professor on a more personal level. It's the best way to not feel like "just a number at UT."

1

Find a way to stand out and make a difference on campus. Without us this campus wouldn't be as great as it is. Find out where you can make a difference in improving our campus and act on it.

JOIN THE LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL



INFORMATION SESSIONS | AUG 30, SEPT 2
NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS DUE | SEPT 6

FOR MORE INFO VISIT UTLAC.COM

LIBERAL ARTS WEEK SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2011

JOIN THE LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL FOR A WEEK OF
SERVICE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

AN INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Each year, Liberal Arts Council hosts a themed-week to celebrate the liberal arts and what it means to be a student in the largest and most diverse college on campus. Being a part of the CoLA community is something to be proud of and this week is a chance for us to show it. Our theme for Liberal Arts Week 2011 is centered around New York City and the remembrance of 9/11 as this year will be the 10th anniversary. We encourage all students at the University of Texas to come out to our events and hope you enjoy them."

-- HANK DUGIE

EVENT LISTINGS COMING SOON!

Liberal Arts Council Takes **New Direction** LEADERSHIP FOCUSES ON CHALLENGES, CHANGES IN UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

Ten thousand students. Fifty-five majors. One council. They're in your classes, they're in your dorm rooms – and this year, members of the Liberal Arts Council will be right where you want them – in your face.

Just one of the eighteen organizations that make up UT's Senate of College Councils, the Liberal Arts Council (LAC) acts as the official voice for students in the College of Liberal Arts (CoLA). With over 70 active members, LAC caters to the needs of liberal arts students by voting in the academic legislative assembly, sponsoring CoLA events and redefining the term 'student life' to mean more than just Sunday strolls down the Drag.

"LAC isn't an organization," President Hank Dugie said. "It is the organization that represents students in the college. Its mission isn't to cater to one group's interests over another's, but to insure all students in the college have an educational experience of the absolute top quality."

As the umbrella organization for all things CoLA-related, LAC's executive team must constantly reevaluate how their council can best serve students, faculty and administration tied to the College of Liberal Arts. With a new team elected to fuel the LAC machine each year, members of the latest leadership board decided to switch gears in hopes of giving the Liberal Arts Council a much-needed makeover.

"This past spring, the new executive officer team sat down to

discuss what we felt would make our organization better and how we could better represent the students," Financial Director Landon Sparks said. "We decided that the old system of five committees was not working and that we could develop a new system to better represent the wide-range of student life."

Though LAC continues to carry out the same mission it has since its conception in 1979, this year's leadership board reshaped the council in a way that best facilitates progress within the council and college.

"The size of our leadership team has increased, and we're hoping that in doing so we can focus on more specific venues to reach out to the student body," Traditions co-chair TJ Harris said. "To us, representing the student body means more than just voting on legislation."

With an increase in the number of internal committees from five to ten, members of LAC hope to tackle new projects that will engage CoLA students beyond the classroom. From Project Refresh – a reorientation for incoming freshman, to Law School for Dummies, CoLA students can look forward to a year that will be defined by the hard work of each and every member of the Liberal Arts Council.

"As always, LAC will provide many opportunities for liberal arts students to get the most out of their education and time at UT," Policy Committee chair Andrew Wilson said. "Additionally, this year will bring exciting new events that are aimed

specifically at CoLA students. And let's not forget the awesome new addition of our own newsmagazine. It's sure to play to the likes of a true liberal arts student."

Despite unmatched enthusiasm from the council, LAC recognizes the challenges it must face in the upcoming school year.

"The year will take hard work, as Texas is still facing an upward battle with an education and budgetary crisis," Faculty Affairs committee chair Cassie Maneen said. "Additionally, with an interesting political climate developing, LAC will be instrumental in keeping our students informed and involved. The CoLA student body should be excited to really meet and get to know LAC in a new and bold way."

Whether involved for one semester or three years, membership in The Liberal Arts Council means more than working with other students towards a common goal; to these motivated students, it means family.

"Liberal Arts Council is more than a place where I can stay informed about events around campus and help out the student community, College Ambassadors chair Philip Wiseman said. "It's like family. A family of my friends who are all interested in helping out students just as much as I am. It's where I can turn for support and answers to questions I have, a place where I can be free to express my ideas in helping make our college even better, and a place I can go to find friends just to have a great time with."

■ CHEYENNE SMITH



Reeling in the Fish : LAC President Hank Dugie and Programs Director Jeremy Gatson talk to students about the council during freshman orientation. "Freshman are ready to learn, they're enthusiastic about the college and ready to get involved with the liberal arts," Gatson said. Photos by Cheyenne Smith.

STILL LOOKING FOR CLASSES?

SIGN UP FOR THESE EXCITING LIBERAL ARTS CLASSES TODAY!

AAS 310

Muslims In America

PERKINS, ALISA M

Meets TTH 1230pm-200pm GAR 3.116
(also listed as ISL 311, R S 316K, WGS 301)

Flags: Writing, Cultural Diversity

An introduction to Asian American studies through a variety of disciplines. Some topics partially fulfill legislative requirement for American history; these are identified in the Course Schedule.

AHC 325

History Of Rome: The Republic

Dr. Ayelet Haimson-Lushkov

Meets MWF 11-12 in UTC 3.102
(also listed as HIS 321M)

This class will cover the history of the Roman republic from its foundation to the death of Caesar, paying attention both to the mundane and the improbably exciting. Our central theme will be the transformation of Rome from a small city-state to a world empire, and the roots of this transformation in aristocratic culture.

AAS 325

Taiwan: Colonization/Migration/Identity

Hsu, Madeline Y.

Meets TTH 930am-1100am GAR 1.122
(also listed as ANS 361, HIS 364G)

Contemporary Taiwan's claims of an ethnic identity distinct from the Chinese mainland refer to a history of multiple colonizations and migrations both to and from the island. This course will explore questions of ethnicity, empire, and modernization in east Asia from the 16th century to the present.

HIS 365G

Southern Identity Since 1865

Eckel, Jennifer

Meets TTH 200pm-330pm GAR 1.126

This course partially fulfills the legislative requirement for American history.

This course examines how both Black and white Southern thinkers have understood their own regional identity while seeking answers to questions like, "What is the South?" "How does it fit within the American nation?" and "How does/can/should the South change?".

C C 340

Archaeology Of Consumption

Instructor: Dr. Sarah James

Meets TTH 12:30-2 in GAR 0.128

The ways in which people consume food and drink can provide remarkable insights into the nature of a society. This course examines specific drinking and dining customs throughout the Greco-Roman world both as reflections of political, social and religious conditions and as consciously manipulated practices.

AAS 330

Asian Latino

Siu, Lok

Meets TTH 1100am-1230pm SAC 4.118

This course examines the historical and contemporary migration of Asians to the Americas and the subsequent cultural and social transformation that transpire after settlement. It explores three main themes: how political economic circumstances shape migration patterns, the cultural-social formation of Asian communities in the Americas and the kinds of inter-racial and inter-cultural affinities, tensions, and conflicts that arise between Asian migrants and local populations.

C C 354C

Hist Greece To End Pelopon War

Dr. Paula Perlman

Meets MW 1-2 in WAG 101 + sections
(also listed as AHC 325, CTI 375, HIS 354C)

This course covers essential developments in Greek history during the Archaic and Early Classical Periods (ca. 800-400 B.C.). Emphasis will be divided between political/military history and ancient Greek society and culture.

AAS 310

Psy Persp On Asian Amer Ident

HILL, VICTORIA C

Meets TTH 930am-1100am CBA 4.344

This course examines the unique culturally influenced psychologies of various Asian-American groups from two main directions: students will explore the current research pertaining to Asian American psychology, and they will also examine mainstream psychological assumptions to evaluate their usefulness for Asian-American populations.

C C 348

Moral Agency In Greek Tragedy

Dr. Lesley Dean-Jones

Meets TTH 12:30-2 in GAR 2.112

This course carries the Ethics and Leadership Flag.

The primary aim of this course is to introduce you to some of the masterpieces of Greek tragedy, works which have had an incalculable influence on Western civilization. I will explain the social and cultural background of the texts, identify some of the questions that they pose and suggest some interpretations.



PETER PAN MINI GOLF
 ALAMO DRAFT HOUSE
 6TH STREET
 THE DOMAIN
 TOY JOY

MT. BONNELL
 ZILKER PARK
 LADY BIRD LAKE
 INNER SPACE CAVERNS

FRIDAY NIGHT
 IN AUSTIN
 HERE'S WHERE YOU
 SHOULD BE

MAUDIE'S
 TITAYA'S
 SPIDER HOUSE
 HUT'S HAMBURGERS

ESTHER'S FOLLIES
 THE NEW MOVEMENT
 STUBB'S BBQ
 WATERLOO RECORDS
 FRANK IRWIN CENTER



ou might just like it, I promise. Maybe Mom raised you to keep on the sidewalk, stay within the back gate and color inside the lines, but you're in Austin now – welcome to the big kids' playground. Many people get caught up in the notion that the heart of Texas merely bleeds burnt orange, and with such a recognizable campus, it's easy to believe that the University of Texas is the only thing keeping Austin alive, right? Wrong. As the state capital, Austin offers opportunity and excitement - there really is something for everyone. With a fresh and booming entrepreneurial spirit, a burgeoning music and entertainment scene, endless artistic avenues and amazing outdoor activities, getting off of those university blocks just may be your favorite part of living in "ATX" after all.

800,000 PEOPLE AND COUNTING

ENTREPRENEURIAL GOLDMINE

LIVE MUSIC CAPITOL OF THE WORLD

WEIRD AND PROUD

GET READY TO CALL IT HOME, YOU'RE IN

AUSTIN, TEXAS



It is impossible to acknowledge UT's reputation in Austin without giving due credence to the 'nationally ranked business school', McCombs.

Equipped with some of the finest faculty, staff, and students in the nation, McCombs offers something uniquely Austin as it encourages the spirit of those true entrepreneurs to stick around, set up shop, and really develop their businesses within the community.

McCombs Management Professor and Kelleher Chair in Entrepreneurship Honoree Dr. John Butler said that an effective entrepreneur is, "one who creates an organization with the purpose of commercializing an idea" citing that Austin is a unique haven for rising businesses because it possesses, an "eco-system of people who understand market economies and a city that celebrates wealth creation and creative individuals." Dr. Butler has been around the Austin business market long enough to have witnessed some UT hall-of-famers, namely the Plucker's, Whole Foods, and Dell companies.

Fret not my CoLA comrades, though

a thriving business sense makes Austin furthermore progressive, I did promise something for everyone. This includes an overwhelming support and growth of the arts and entertainment. If Houston functions as the Wall Street of Texas, then Austin surely gives its regards to Broadway. Art and music, both mainstream and underground, are coveted jewels on the city's crown.

Boasted as the "Live Music Capital of the World", outlets like Austin City Limits Live work hard to earn the city its glowing reputation.

"ACL Live offers the chance for up-and-comings as well as well-established artists and entertainers to share their talents with the Austin community...offering year-round concerts and events," ACL Live Launch Intern Erika Willrodt said. "This opening season alone, ACL Live has hosted President Obama, The Recording Academy, and the Davis Cup draw for the U.S. versus Spain tennis tournament... people congregate to Austin because they appreciate live entertainment, and there are so many opportunities to enjoy it."





ut entertainment does not live on music alone. Every avenue of art is applauded and celebrated in Austin, from creative food trucks, like Gordough's gourmet doughnuts on South Lamar and prestigious museum exhibits, to the interesting niche of alternative graphic art, such as provided by local cartoonists Melinda Tracy Boyce and Aaron Whitaker. Collectively recognized as Gingham Ghost, these two Oregon transplants landed in Austin due to its sister-city connection to Portland.

"Our arrival collided with the STAPLE Independent Media Expo," Ghost said. "We sold comics, met some cool fellow cartoonists and learned about the Austin comic hot spots. It was a great introduction to the city's small, but growing, alternative comic scene.

Amidst spending time at Bennu Coffee shop, where Lustre Pearl is the drink of choice, Boyce created a comic series entitled *Falling in Love with Austin* devoted to recognizing those parts of the city that most inspire the pair.

"The sun has lead us to spend more time outside, riding bikes, drinking on patios and exploring...nothing is more motivating than a sunny day," Ghost said.

With the Austin landscape proving rousing enough to work as a muse for local artists, imagine how it serves the city's inner athlete. Outdoor activities come, quite literally, natural to the area. Home to a 68-degree natural spring, Barton Springs Pool, the expansive 358 acre Zilker Park, and the 785 feet tall Mount Bonnell, Austin boasts some of the state's most impressive natural hangout spots. With so many water features in the city's backyard, it should come as no surprise that rowing is a serious sport to Austinites.

"Texas Rowing is the official woman's rowing team within the UT Athletic Department," said Assistant Coach to the University of Texas Women's Rowing team, Caroline King. "The Novice squad is made up of largely inexperienced walk-ons from the UT student body each year. The best part of becoming a rower is learning to push yourself and push your team to places you've never been. When you are literally in the same boat, everyone depends on each other."

It is that very essence of diversity and enthusiasm that makes Austin so much more than a mere forty acres. There is undiscovered life, art, sport, and innovation beyond the textbooks and toga parties. Austin's cultural landscape remains ever changing, as it molds to match the varied interests of its inhabitants. Though our hobbies may be different, the people of this city share one distinct quality—passion. Austin embodies a wonderful contrast of all things quintessentially Texas, and

yet nothing of the sort. We have our Tex-Mex, country music, and football, but we also have an international farmer's market, indie music fests, and a celebration of the arts. It is truly a place for everyone and everything. With a good idea, and even better intentions, Austin really can give you the glimpse of the world on a platter. Just take a moment to put down the Solo cup, and close the laptop - more than the stars are big and bright, deep in the heart of Texas. Go see for yourself, you just might like it, I promise.

■ CASSIE MANEEN



Austin photos
by Marisa Montemayor
Falling in Love with Austin
comic by Melinda Tracy Boyce
Bugs comic by Aaron Whitaker
South Congress photo
from wikimedia.com

FOOD TRUCKS

It is easy to stay close to campus as a UT student, but Austin is a city that offers countless rewarding experiences to those willing to explore it. One of the fun ways to experience Austin is through food. In the past few years, food trucks have gained popularity in cities all over the United States, and Austin is no exception. Food trucks are trailers that are converted into mobile eateries. Food trucks cater to all taste buds; patrons can find sweet, salty, fried, or spicy treats from establishments that claim notoriety for convenient, inexpensive, and oftentimes exceptionally tasty food. Austin hosts numerous trucks all over the city, many of which began locally.

COREANOS

Coreanos, a food truck that sells delicious Korean Mexican fusion food, is located at 24th & Rio Grande in the evenings during the school year. Customers can find unique items on their menu, like Kim Cheese fries, Korean BBQ tacos, and Korean BBQ burritos.

BANANARCHY

Another local food truck, Bananarchy, was co-founded by UT students Laura Anderson and Anna Notario. Located at 600 S. Lamar in the parking lot of Toastie's Sub Shop, Bananarchy is open until midnight on the weekends. If you're looking for something sweet, Bananarchy's simple but brilliant concept is for you: a frozen banana dipped in either chocolate, peanut butter, vanilla, or vegan chocolate, then rolled in a topping of the customer's choice.

GOURDOUGH'S

Another Austin favorite is Gour dough's, which describes its food in three simple words: "Big. Fat. Donuts." Located at 1219 Lamar Boulevard, Gour dough's customers can either choose from a menu of precreated donuts or create their own. Comprised of over twenty different donuts, Gour dough's menu offers such oddities as the Mother Clucker (a donut with a fried chicken strip and honey butter) and Baby Rattler (a donut with fudge icing, fudge Oreos, and a gummy rattlesnake). Customers also have the option of creating their own donut by using any of the ingredients found on the menu.

It would be difficult to find a college student who didn't appreciate delicious yet cheap food, and luckily for UT students, Austin's food trucks provide exactly that. Whether you find yourself eating Korean Mexican fusion food at Coreanos or a frozen banana from Bananarchy, you'll be supporting local Austin businesses that are most definitely keeping Austin weird.

■ CHARLOTTE HOCKENS

HARRY POTTER: THE END OF AN ERA

ong! A thousand years or more ago, When I was newly sown, There lived four wizards of renown, Whose names are still well known: Bold Gryffindor, from wild moor, Fair Ravenclaw, from glen, Sweet Hufflepuff, from valley broad, Shrewd Slytherin, from fen. They shared a wish, a hope, a dream. They hatched a daring plan to educate young sorcerers Thus Hogwarts School began. Now each of these four founders formed their own house, for each did value different virtues in the ones they had to teach. By Gryffindor, the bravest were prized far beyond

IT was always about AR points. Like the systems at many other elementary schools, the Accelerated Reader quizzes aimed to encourage students to read novels critically, and rewarded them with a series of points depending on the difficulty of the book. This is where Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone spread like a Pixie Stick addiction in elementary school. A book that secured the reader enough points for the year—it was like magic.

Now almost fourteen years later, J.K. Rowling's novels still have ubiquitous appeal and an even deeper kinship with readers. Though the concept of a fantasy world proved nothing revolutionary, Harry Potter remains a thoroughbred, escaping the ephemeral curse of copycat attempts such as the *Twilight* Saga fad. Though Harry's appeal seems everlasting, there is something very finite about the Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2.

July fifteenth marked the end of an era: all of the books had been read, movies made, and now the lines are being formed. This is an interesting time in a cultural phenomenon's life, and die-hard fans seemed to approach it with great reverence.

"I was immediately addicted to the books, and fell in love with the magic," Junior Kasfia Islam said. Like most other Potterheads, who have made a ritual out of the premiers, Islam planned on dressing up for this film's midnight showing.

To the outside eye, such zeal may seem strange, but donning costumes is only one small way true fans begin to express their understanding and gratitude to the wizarding world.

"Dumbledore reminds us of a profound truth: your family tree, the color of your skin...the contents of your wallet can say nothing about the strength of your character," Junior Alana Harrison said.

With such deeply seated life lessons, it is only natural for the culture of all things Potter to create communities of

people committed to the fictional world beyond its official end. In the spring of 2010, the University of Texas welcomed its first official Quidditch league right here on the 40 acres. The program grew quickly, and Gryffindor, UT's varsity team, aptly won the first House Cup Tournament on April 30, 2011 at Clark Field.

"The players absolutely embrace Potter...the ultimate message of Harry Potter is about friendship, coming together, and embracing difference," Texas Quidditch Historian Melissa DeVarney said. "It's funny, when enough people are

Gonzales said. "They put so much work into recreating even the smallest of details from the books and movies. My personal favorite touch was going into the restroom and hearing Moaning Myrtle."

NOW

that the end has come, the trend of cashing in on Potter's legacy is only just beginning. According to an announcement on June 23, J.K. Rowling herself plans to launch an interactive website, Pottermore, aimed at further involving readers with the acclaimed novels come October. In addition to being the exclusive spot to purchase audio and electronic copies of the Potter series, a rather progressive move for a traditionalist like Rowling, the site will serve to connect fans worldwide, and allow them to partake in online Potter games, storytelling, and inevitably, merchandising.

"To be honest, I'm a little skeptical about this whole Pottermore thing," Harrison said. "I'm certainly

going to check it out, but I thought the announcement itself was bit anticlimactic."

The fact still remains that most of us grew up alongside Harry, Ron, & Hermione using their experiences to fight our own dementors. We heeded Dumbledore's words as if they were religious text, searched for the horcruxes in our own lives to get rid of dark arts, and dared to make peace with some of the world's most mysterious creatures. The all-important Albus Dumbledore has spoken, "It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live." Thus, in the true spirit of Harry Potter, we must finally awake from the dream where spells control emotions, passed loved ones swoop in for guidance, and good always prevails over evil with that ever present lightning bolt. Now is the time to bid adieu, to leave the theatre, and to turn the page. The next chapter is up to us, Potter's true legacy—all left unwritten.

■ **CASSIE MANEEN, MUGGLE CORRESPONDENT**
Stock images from deviantart.com



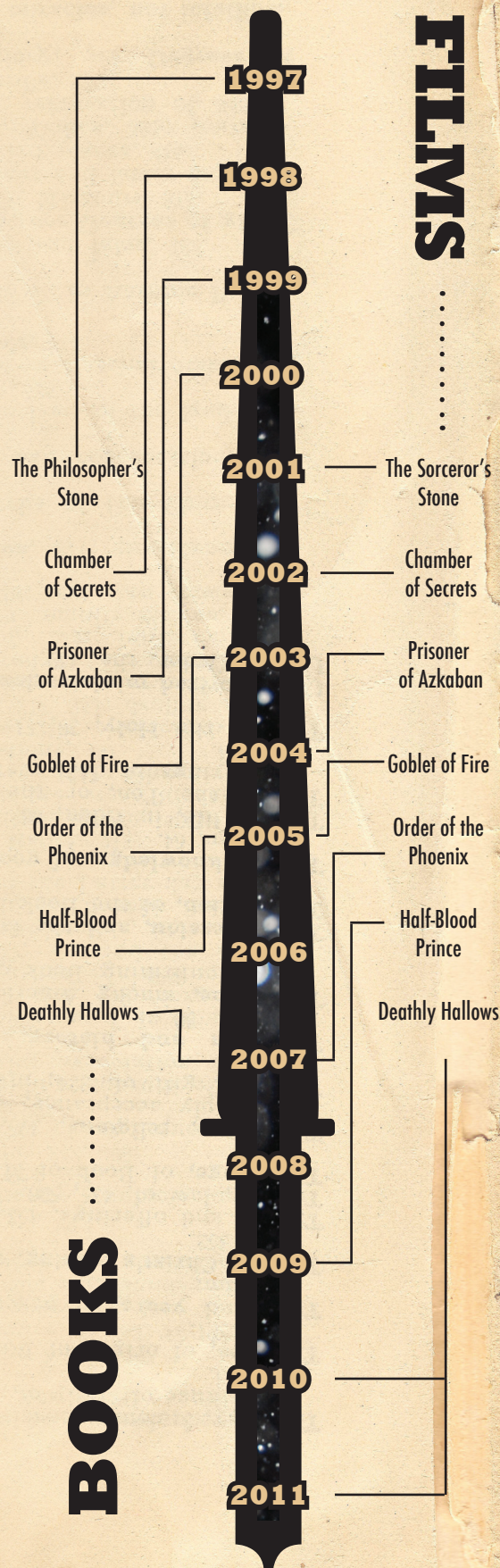
Hufflepuff Team Photo provided by Texas Quidditch

together playing Quidditch and getting really intense about it, everyone seems to forget that we all look rather silly running around on brooms."

THE vast appeal of these communities stands as a testament to the deeply rooted relationship readers have with the text and their extended personal identities. Ordinary muggles have certainly taken note. Universal Studios Orlando recently opened its newest theme park, The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, which offers rides based off of the novels such as "Flight of the Hippogriff" and "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey". The park also features replicas of famous Potter places like "Honeydukes Homemade Sweets" and the infamous "Three Broomsticks" pub, each equipped with the likes of chocolate frogs and Butterbeer.

"Universal Studios did an amazing job with the park," Junior Maris

FILMS



BOOKS



FIGHT OR FLIGHT



The freshman 15 is a scary concept for some, an absolute nightmare for others, and yet a myth to the rest. However you think of the freshman 15, weight gain, activity levels, and health are things to keep an eye on. The University of Texas has no shortage of things to do or food to eat; the key is finding the right balance between fun and healthy. Students can fight it with exercise or fly from it with diet.

FIGHT

Exercise burns calories, boosts your metabolism, and is the first choice for many students. Even if you put in just 30 minutes a day, getting active can make all the difference.

"Instead of staying in my room and watching TV, I'd go to the gym," junior Emily Carson said. "The best thing to do is decide what it is you are willing to give up in order to go."

The UT campus houses four gyms that are free to students. Both Gregory gym and RecSports feature cardio machines, free weights, weight machines, racquetball courts, volleyball and basketball courts. Additionally, Gregory also has basketball and volleyball courts, an indoor track and three pools. RecSports is a little smaller and usually less crowded, but will deliver the same workout results.

"Go to bed earlier, wake up earlier... the best way to kick start your metabolism is to do some exercise in the morning and eat a decent breakfast," senior Bo Roth said.

For those who prefer the outdoors, you can almost always find a game of Ultimate Frisbee or Disc Golf. Beyond that, there are countless biking and running trails (one of the most popular running sites in Austin is Lady Bird Lake trail). With a beautiful view of the lake, customizable trails, and easy access though the UT LA (Lake Austin Blvd) bus, this trail is a favorite for many students and Austinites.

FLIGHT

Even with (and especially without) exercise, diet plays a tremendous role in weight and overall health. Watching what you eat can be tedious, but it doesn't have to be. Keep a food journal (no one has to know) to keep track of how much you eat and when you eat. If it's not a mealtime, ask yourself if you are eating because you're hungry, or because of boredom. When hunger strikes, try snacking on good foods like apples, almonds, tomatoes, blueberries, eggs or yogurt (all proven to help weight loss).

"Pay attention to the amount of food [you] are eating," Nutrition professor Lydia Steinman said. To avoid gaining weight you need to stay in energy balance, (where) energy in equals energy out."



While picking up fast food on the way to class is easier than preparing meals, late-night Wendy's or Plucker's will not benefit your waistline or health.

"There are more healthful choices at fast food establishments these days, and I think that if a student is conscientious about ordering less caloric foods and smaller portion sizes, they could avoid gaining weight," Steinman said.

BALANCING ACT

Still, making even the smallest changes can improve your health everyday. Avoid taking the bus, try stairs instead of the elevator, get a good night of sleep as often as you can, eat breakfast, eat moderately sized meals throughout the day (instead of 3 large meals and snacking in between), and just watch your diet in general - use your common sense.

"After losing a lot of weight, I now tend to listen to my body more for clues when I should or shouldn't eat," Roth said. "Just limiting the amount of fats, salts, and sugars, as well as increasing the amount of water I drank per day, contributed to over 100 lbs of weight loss."

Many think of a diet as something you can go 'on' and 'off' of. But diet is part of life - you need food to survive; it's all about getting the good stuff. Instead of thinking of it as 'dieting', think of it as a slow and healthy life change. Replace Twinkies with carrots and low-fat ranch, replace soda with water or tea. As cliché as it is, you are what you eat. Ultimately it's up to you to put the right food in your body and give it the rest and exercise it needs.

■ RACHEL MARINO

25

percent of college students gain 5% of their body weight during freshman year



41

percent of college students diet, vomit, or take laxatives in an effort to lose weight

Numbers from the department of nutrition and food sciences at Utah State University and the American College Health Association

IN COLLEGE, WEIGHT IS AS EASY TO LOSE AS IT IS TO GAIN BE CONSCIOUS OF YOUR BODY AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH

A common reaction to stress is fatigue. Replacing workouts with naps burns 88% less calories per hour.

STRESS

Increased stress levels can result in loss of appetite. Skipping meals decreases energy and performance.

Weekends in West Campus rarely thrive off of water pong. A single can of beer can cost you 330 calories.

DRUGS

Caffeine and nicotine are stimulants that can act as appetite suppressants. Smoking breaks should never substitute a meal.

Late night study sessions and social eating can pack on unwanted pounds. Split dinner with a pal to reduce large portion sizes.

FRIENDS

Pressure to fit in remains a leading cause of eating disorders. For one-on-one counseling, visit University Mental Health Services.

TRUTH

Body weight fluctuation is normal. To maintain maximum health, eat nutritious meals and exercise regularly. For more health information visit www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu

UNIVERSITY GYM HOURS

GREGORY

Speedway and 21st

M-Th 6am-12am

F 6am-9pm

Sa 8am-9pm

Su 10am-12am

REC SPORTS

San Jacinto

M-Th 6am-10pm

F 6am-7pm

Sa 8am-7pm

Su 10am-10pm

The Liberal Arts core curriculum remains popular with students for its flexibility. Due to the economic crisis however, the University of Texas at Austin made serious budget cuts - many of which can be seen in the College of Liberal Arts.

Money Talks

BUDGET CUTS FORCE COLLEGE TO RESTRUCTURE FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Departments affected include European Studies, Asian Studies, and Latin American Studies, among many others. With course sequences restructured to save the college money, many students find themselves frustrated by the limitations of the college's updated curriculum.

Over the last year, language departments within the College of Liberal arts took some of the

biggest hits from budget cuts. One of the most notable changes involves a shift from a series of four courses – with two five-hour and two three-hour classes required – to a series of three courses that require six hours a week for each class. Students must now fulfill their language requirement in three semesters rather than four semesters. With a shorter language sequence, the college hopes to cut down on the number of semesters

and professors needed, thereby cutting down on overall costs.

These changes may hurt freshmen since students newest to the university have one of the last picks for courses. It may be challenging for a freshmen to fit this demanding three-semester proficiency into their schedule along with their other core requirements.

“While the new set-up for foreign language requirements can present many problems for students, especially in regards to creating a balanced schedule and working through coursework effectively, I understand the rationale for a change,” said President of the Senate of College Councils Carisa Nietsche. “Desperate budgetary times call for desperate measures. Unfortunately, this measure makes life a little difficult for students. As long as quality remains the bottom line in all conversations

“As long as quality remains the bottom line in all conversations moving forward, a little inconvenience is a reasonable trade-off.”

moving forward, a little inconvenience is a reasonable trade-off”

Upper classmen may be significantly affected as well, especially if they planned their schedule since freshmen year with a four-semester proficiency in mind.

“The Spanish requirement of three semesters of six hours takes a huge chunk out of a student's schedule,” Senate Administrative Director Kendra Loftice said. “It makes it very hard to schedule and get other core classes needed while trying to work around a two-hour slot three days a week. This is especially hindering considering most students cannot get into the class until the second semester of their sophomore year or even their junior year, by which then it makes graduating on time very difficult.”

Many students, especially if they have been at the university for a few years, will find these budget cuts frustrating with regards to their schedules and academic lives in general. However, the administration is doing all they can to get the students what they need under the budgetary restrictions.

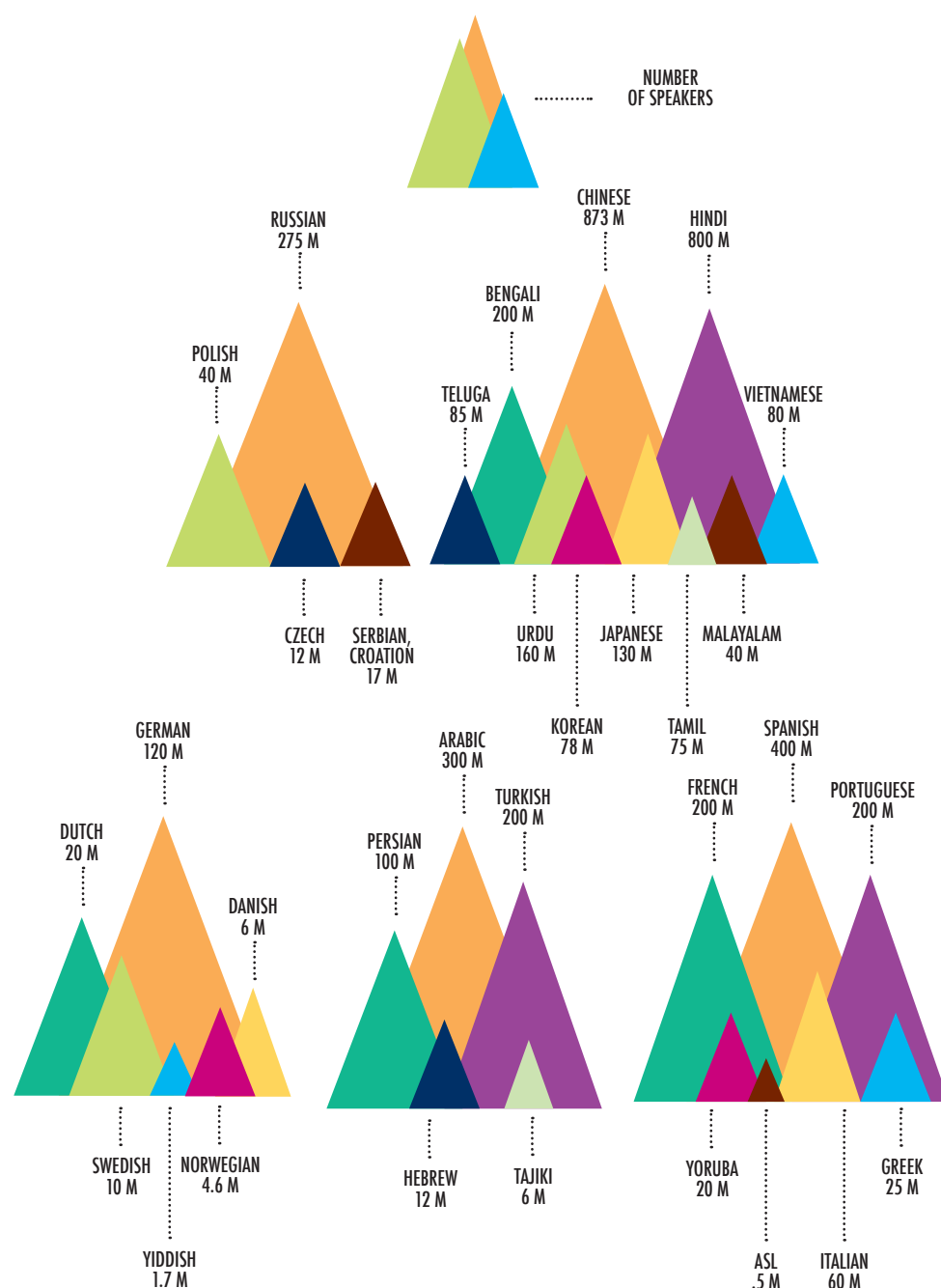
“Naturally we are trying to restructure the courses so that to we can approach a level of accomplishments as close as possible to that of the old sequence,” Italian Professor Daniela Bini said. “But there is no way to know this yet.”

Although budget cuts will undoubtedly continue to reshape curriculums within CoLA and the university, the college will strive to uphold its reputation for academic excellence. However, with less money, fewer professors, and limiting language courses, students will have to be more diligent in planning their schedules and working within the system to achieve their goal graduation date.

■ LORRI MARLOW

LANGUAGE BY THE NUMBERS

UT OFFERS OVER 30 FOREIGN LANGUAGE SEQUENCES, WHICH ONE WILL MAKE YOU A GLOBAL COMMUNICATOR?



Numbers provided by the College of Liberal Arts

LEGISLATION RECAP

THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION WAS PASSED
DURING THE LAST MONTH OF THE
2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

SB. 1101

In Support of Amending the
Constitution and Bylaws of the Senate
of College Councils to Include the
External Affairs Committee in the
General membership of the Senate of
College Councils

PASSED

SR. 1101

Calling for the Creation of the
Student Organization Endowment

PASSED

SR. 1016

In Support of the Expansion of AP
Score Eligibility for Credit Hours

PASSED

CAMPUS UPDATES

CTBAC UPDATES

The Senate of College Councils at the University of Texas at Austin passed a resolution last September in support of creating an institutional mechanism to involve students in the budget process. This called for the creation of College Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee (CTBAC) in all 18 colleges and schools in the university hoping to incorporate student input in budgetary matters affecting the colleges.

"We're hoping to establish student priorities for tuition allocation in an effort to keep tuition as low and affordable as possible. CTBAC hopes to retain the necessary functions of teaching, research and support for students despite budget cuts."

- Yaman Desai, CTBAC representative

send comments and concerns to la.ctbac@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
SEPTEMBER 2011						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

AUGUST 24

CLASSES BEGIN

AUGUST 29

LAST DAY OF THE OFFICIAL ADD/DROP PERIOD; LAST DAY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS MAY REGISTER AND PAY TUITION WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE REGISTRAR.

SEPTEMBER 5

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

SEPTEMBER 9

LAST DAY AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MAY ADD A CLASS; LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS FOR A POSSIBLE REFUND

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL CORNER

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT **CAMPUS AMBASSADORS**

All committees in LAC strive to represent the college at large. College Ambassadors Committee chair Philip Wiseman says his group will "strive toward the inclusion of students by reaching out to student organizations." He adds that "members are stakeholders in the college [and] giving them a 'seat at the table' is exactly the best way to ensure accountability of the council." During its first year, the committee's

primary goals are to create a student network of leaders within the college, to host an annual Student Leadership Summit, and, in partnership with the COLA administration, to create the Liberal Arts Affiliated Organization.

The LAAO program is designed to help fund student projects and create a sense of community. Joining LAAO is free and member organizations will enjoy access to LAAO

funding for student events, leadership funding, special recruitment events and more. The LAAO program will begin this fall and is open to all Liberal Arts student organizations. Those who wish to get involved or register with LAAO should visit www.utlac.com or email wiseman.philip@gmail.com with questions or concerns.

■ AILEEN O'LEARY

Photo by Armando Vera
Calendars fromduy.com

COMMITTEE CHAIR PHILIP WISEMAN



STUDENT OPINION

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



JOHN LAWLER

STUDENT LEADER OF THE MONTH

"Since 2009, I've served as a Liberal Arts Representative in the Student Government Assembly. I am a 4th year Urban Studies Major from La Porte, Texas. Currently, I'm working with other students to organize the West Campus area to fight a city proposal to eliminate free-parking in West Campus and replace it with parking meters.

Also, I've had the opportunity to work with other neighborhood stakeholders to create a proposed change to West Campus'

current affordable housing requirements. If our math serves us right, by next year, the amount of affordable housing in the West Campus area should double.

City and neighborhood issues like this are the ones we as student leaders should be focusing more on. As the City of Austin and UT-Austin become more and more entwined, we're going to have to face the fact that the decisions made in City Hall can impact us more than those at the State Capitol." ■ JOHN LAWLER

TEXTBOOKS THEY COST WHAT!?

Tired of spending a fortune at the bookstore? Try these tips to get the most bang for your buck. ■ KELLY DEPEW

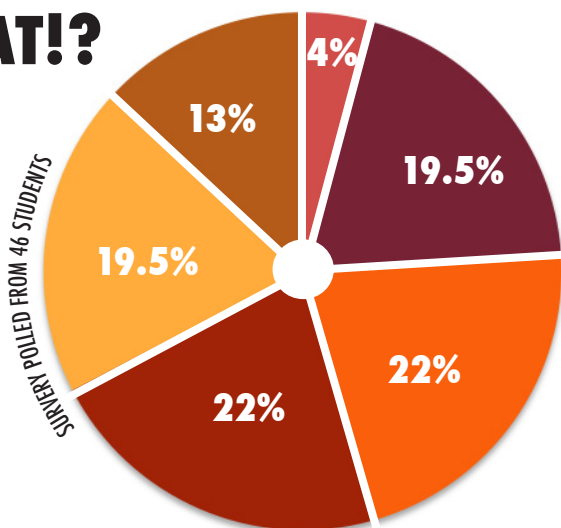
Begin your search as soon as possible. Once ISBN numbers are released, you can find your books on Amazon, ebay, or other online stores that can offer up to 90% off sticker price.

When buying a textbook from a store in person, avoid new books at all costs. Ask the manager if they offer the book used.

If possible, email your professor and inquire as to whether or not a previous edition would be acceptable (this is a rare occurrence, but again can save you a lot of money).

Don't succumb to the panic or rush of buying textbooks immediately. If you really do need a book next day, overnight shipping is usually available.

When purchasing online, be sure to check the cost of shipping and handling. For heavy textbooks S&H is generally \$3.99.



What is the most you've ever spent on textbooks?

■ \$75-150 ■ \$225-300 ■ \$375-450
■ \$150-225 ■ \$300-375 ■ \$500+

STUDENT SURVEY

AWARDS AND HONORS

Archer Fellows study and intern in Washington, D.C. during a fall or spring semester. Past internship placements include the White House, the World Bank, National Public Radio, and the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), among many others.

The Archer Program is a joint effort of the UT System Office of Federal Relations, the Archer Center, and the nine participating UT System academic campuses.

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THE OUTLET

CAMPUS LIFE, POP CULTURE, MINUTIAE.
MUNDANE OR INSPIRING, THE LIBERATOR SHARES ITS
THOUGHTS ON... WELL... EVERYTHING.

I wish I were as cool as the guy who walked into a 50 minute class 15 minutes late and left 20 minutes early.

AILEEN O'LEARY

I really hope we beat Nebraska this year. What? Huh, no Big 12 anymore? Well this is awkward...

CASSIE MANEEN

When there are no rainy days or nights, when am I supposed to have Harry Potter marathons?

RACHEL MARINO

Michele Bachmann makes Sarah Palin look like Mother Theresa.

CHEYENNE SMITH

The British monarchy is like Chumbawumba. The remnants of a time long gone, and nobody can give a good explanation as to why it still exists.

USMAN MASOOD

Joggers on campus, please just stop it, okay? You are making us walkers look bad! And this isn't a Rocky movie, don't you dare jog up the tower steps, or any other steps for that matter! No!

KELLY DEPEW

Trying to find an outlet in the PCL during finals makes me want to stick my fingers in the socket as soon as I find one.

CHARLOTTE HOCKENS

Rick Perry didn't win his election, his hair did.

DANA HENNING

I feel like there can be no such thing as the freshman 15 at the University of Texas...you start sweating at 8 am when you walk the 40 acres.

MARISA MONTEMAYOR

It's never too early to shop for Halloween. When children ask 'trick or treat', my Casey Anthony costume is sure to trick them... and the judicial system.

HARRISON DROMGOOLE

It's easy to tell who's new to Austin by how they pronounce Guadalupe.

LORRI MARLOW

As James Zhu finished a second year at the University of Texas at Austin, he realized that his dreams of completing college lay just around the corner. This summer he decided it was time he made someone else's dream come true. Over the last few months, the Plan II major spent his time working as an intern for Breakthrough Collaborative.

The national non-profit organization focuses on education reform and their mission is two-fold; put low-income middle school students on the path to college while encouraging older students to pursue careers in education. The program achieves these objectives by using a students teaching students model where high school and college students are recruited to become middle school teachers.

summer faculty at our site in Manor that has no prior classroom experience. As a result, I've found that I really need to push myself to get better at teaching in order to ensure that my students are able to get the instruction they need," Zhu said.

The Breakthrough program in Manor ISD is new, and as a result, Zhu took extra steps to make sure that the program runs smoothly.

"We basically started a brand new program and have a lot of things that need to be worked out everyday, so the amount of effort put in is definitely a lot," Zhu said.

Breakthrough allowed Zhu to be involved with a lifelong passion and explore what career path he wants to take after he graduates from the University of Texas.

"In terms of life goals, I am extremely interested in social justice, especially with

“ In terms of life goals, I am extremely interested in social justice, especially with regards to the education system in the United States. ”

Many University of Texas students see their summers as an opportunity to enrich their collegiate experience by participating in an internship. For students like James Zhu, a summer internship proved a great way to take on new responsibilities, explore future career options, and learn a new skill set.

Zhu worked as student teacher for the program for Manor ISD, a school district directly northeast of Austin. His responsibilities included planning and implementing an academically rigorous curriculum.

"We are running full classrooms and have to prepare lesson plans, give assessments, and ensure that the students are learning the objectives," Zhu said.

Zhu learned first-hand how much hard work goes into being an effective teacher.

"I'm one of the few teachers on the

regards to the education system in the United States. I am interested in doing Teach for America after I graduate for a few years, and this internship will definitely help me out in both preparing for the experience if I do it as well as giving me a taste of teaching to make sure it is something I want to do," Zhu said.

Teach for America is another national non-profit that focuses on educational reform.

Zhu said that Breakthrough gave him satisfaction knowing that he is helping make a difference in the lives of others.

"It is really rewarding to know that we are directly helping the students that we teach be the first in their families to go to college and get their degree," Zhu said.

■ CHARLOTTE HOCKENS

HOW DID YOU SNAG YOUR SUMMER OPPORTUNITY?



"My professor recommended that I submit my resume to YouthLaunch for a summer internship,"

-Anjali Nambiar, Junior Plan II / Music major, interned for non-profit organization YouthLaunch

"I found out about my study abroad program through my French 507 class. I immediately jumped at the opportunity,"

- Cameron Miculka, Senior Journalism Major





FALL HIGHLIGHTS



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THE QUARTERS

6 LOCATIONS

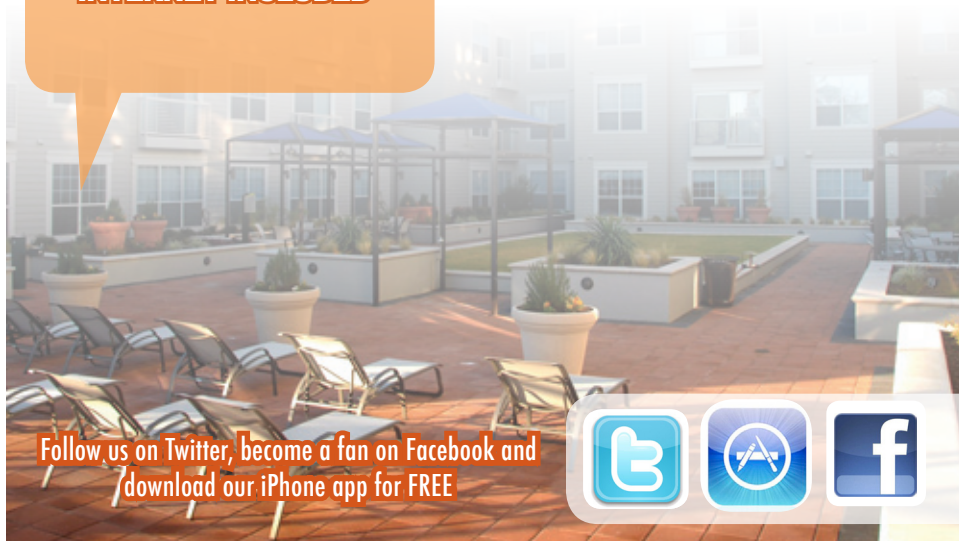
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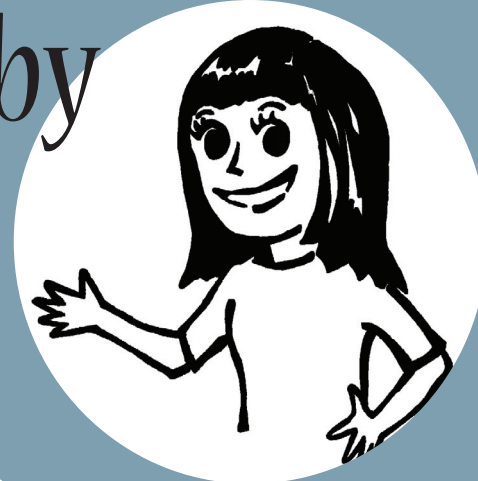
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